











Hendra virus – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and decontamination procedures for property owners

Animal Biosecurity & Welfare

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Contact with Hendra virus positive animals, suspect animals, close contact susceptible animals, and contaminated or potentially contaminated land should be minimised. Minimal PPE (disposable overalls, boots) can be used if entering a contaminated site but not approaching within 5 metres of horses within 1 metre or companion animals. Only a limited number of adults should have contact with sick or close contact animals and PPE must be worn when handling or doing essential animal welfare tasks e.g. feeding, watering, veterinary care and essential exercise.

Equipment supplied by the department	Equipment you will need to source
<p>P2 respirator or N95 mask (Disposable P2 particulate respirators are only suitable for clean-shaven people. Those with beards must shave it off or use a powered air purifying respirator [PAPR]).</p> 	<p>Foot wear – suitable for task, covers foot, non-slip, waterproof or disposable. If boots ensure sole can be easily cleaned.</p> 
<p>Overalls with full head protection</p> 	<p>Garbage bags for waste disposal</p> 
<p>Eye protection – goggles or safety glasses</p> 	<p>Tarpaulin</p> 
<p>Disposable gloves</p> 	<p>Disinfecting procedures – should include a tub suitable for foot bath and a scrubbing brush</p> 
	<p>Soap and paper towel</p> 
	<p>First Aid Kit</p> 

Before you put on PPE

1. Lay out tarpaulin on the ground between you and the entry point to the contaminated area.
2. Place equipment on the tarpaulin or in just inside the contaminated area.



On the tarpaulin – ‘clean’ zone

All equipment: feed, bowls, handling equipment, PPE – rubber boots, overalls, multiple sets of gloves, protective eyewear, and mask or respirator, First aid kit, bucket of water, soap, and paper towel for washing and drying hands and face.













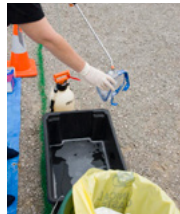
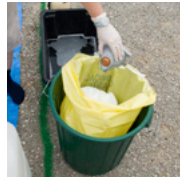
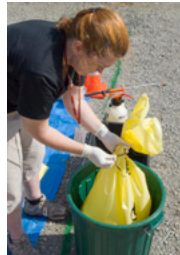

Ground on edge of tarp – ‘dirty zone’

Place a scrubbing brush, a footbath containing soapy water in the ‘dirty’ zone.

Place a bag for contaminated waste in the ‘dirty’ zone, either in a bucket or weighted down e.g. with the footbath, so it will not blow away.



Sequence for putting on PPE	
1. Cover any cuts/abrasions with a water proof dressing	
2. Tie back long hair so it does not become tangled in the straps of the respiratory or eye protection.	
3. Step onto the tarp and leave your usual footwear on the tarp.	
4. Pull on overalls. Zip up to your chin and leave the hood off.	
5. Put on rubber boots or other appropriate footwear. Pull the overalls over the boots leaving as little of the boots exposed as possible.	
6. Put on the respirator. Secure the straps over your ears and behind your head. Mould nose piece to bridge of nose.	
7. Check the seal of your mask. That is, breathe in and check that the mask is sucked inwards and the seal between the face and the mask is not broken. If not, readjust fit. Then, breathe out and see if there is any air leakage around the edge of the respirator. Then, grimace, turn your head from side to side and up and down to check the respirator won't slip.	
8. Put on protective eyewear. Make sure it is over the top of the P2 respirator, so that it does not affect the seal of the mask to the face.	
9. Pull the hood over your head and close the zipper up as high as possible.	
10. Check that all hair is covered.	
11. Put on gloves, place the cuffs over the sleeves. Gloves may be 'fixed' with fabric tape.	
12. If possible have an assistant check your PPE is applied correctly.	
13. Enter the contamination area	

Sequence for removing PPE: to prevent contamination	
<p>1. Just inside exit to the dirty zone, scrub the exposed parts of boots with soapy water to remove all contamination and dirt. Take care clean the boot treads.</p>	
<p>2. Step into the footbath and rinse the clean boots with disinfectant.</p>	
<p>3. Step out onto tarp then unzip the overalls.</p>	
<p>4. Take off each glove by rolling back on itself so that it is inside out and drop it into contaminated waste bag.</p>	
<p>5. Slide your hands inside the hood to remove it. Then remove the overalls touching only the inside, rolling it up inside out as you go and place into the contaminated waste.</p>	
<p>6. Remove your boots</p>	
<p>7. Remember the surfaces of the eyewear and mask are contaminated as only the straps were protected under the hood. Lean forward and remove the eye protection by pulling the straps from the back of your head forward. (Keep the straps under tension so that the eyewear does not swing about. Drop reusable eyewear into disinfectant for cleaning.</p>	
<p>8. Remove the respirator in the same way and drop it in contaminated waste.</p>	
<p>9. Wash your hands, arms and face with soapy water and dry thoroughly.</p>	
<p>10. Clean up Put on new gloves and seal waste bag with ties or tape. Store waste bag in secure area for ten days before disposal (so any virus is dead). Disinfect tarpaulin by washing with soapy water. Dispose of bag in clinical waste bins – NOT in normal waste. Wash and dry your hand again.</p>	
<p>11. Although correct use of PPE should make exposure to Hendra virus extremely unlikely, it is recommended that anyone touching a known infected or sick animal should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shower with hot water, shampoo and soap as soon as possible after the completing handling activities, and • Launder all clothes or bag for later laundering. 	
	

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Check for updates of this information sheet at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (August 2013). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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